

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 2-4 and 7-9 are pending in this application. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 2-3 and 7-9.

Claims 2-3 and 7-8 have been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 2 has also been amended to correct informalities in claim language. Accordingly, claims 2-3 and 7-8 are now in condition for allowance. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and additional subject matter. Claim 9 has been amended to correct informalities in claim language. Claims 1 and 5-6 have been cancelled without prejudice. All amendments made to the claims are fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matters have been introduced.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 2 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to these claims overcome this rejection.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,392,072 (Rosenberry).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1 and to recite additional subject matter. Amended claim 4 recites, among

other features, that the first portion extends along the slot portion, and the second portion extends on the opposite side of the slot portion with respect to the first portion” (see, for example, Fig. 2 of the present application). On the other hand, in Rosenberry, yoke 2 (the alleged second portion) and teeth 3-6 (the alleged first portion) are formed from separate magnetic materials having different permeabilities. It is clear that this configuration of Rosenberry is different from the configuration as recited by claim 4, “the second portion extends on the opposite side of the slot portion with respect to the first portion.” In addition, the teeth 3-6 are not formed in the yoke portion in Rosenberry.

As such, it is clear that, at a minimum, Rosenberry fails to disclose the above discussed elements of amended claim 4. Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable over Rosenberry.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-112513 (Sakai et al.) in view JP 2002-343618 (Yasumura et al.) , alternatively, in view of JP 08-167518 (Mitani et al.).

Since claims 5-6 have been cancelled, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Conclusion

The Applicants have addressed all rejections/objection raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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